

REPORT

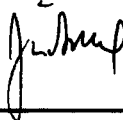
DATE: November 10, 2005

TO: Administration Committee
Regional Council

FROM: Heather Copp, CFO (213) 236-1804
Email: copp@scag.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Approval of Contracts Over \$250,000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve Contracts

SUMMARY:

- Environmental Science Associates NTE \$698,945

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Work Element is listed on the detail page for the contract. Included is the Work Element and category of funding, for example FHWA, FTA, indirect.

If a member believes or has a reason to believe that he or she has a financial interest in any of the firms listed on this Report, the member should consult with SCAG legal counsel.

CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Consultant: Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

Scope: As the officially designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the six-county region in southern California, SCAG has a number of formal authorities and responsibilities including conducting a comprehensive transportation planning process that results in a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and a Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP). Together, these documents serve as the legal basis for transportation decision-making in the region. The SCAG region is also responsible for developing demographic projections and integrated land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs as well as determining that transportation projects, plans, and programs in southern California conform to federal air quality requirements.

SCAG is also developing a Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP), which promotes policy objectives of the Regional Council, fulfills and implements the new organizational Strategic Plan, and serves to assist outside parties in implementing regional plans. The RCP is an extension of SCAG's other on-going planning efforts, notably, RTP along with the RTP Environmental Impact Report, RTIP, Southern California Compass, and SCAG's air quality planning responsibilities.

The purpose of this contract is to prepare the required environmental documentation for two major regional planning efforts and additional air quality evaluations. Specifically, the outcome will be an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the RTP and RCP that adheres to all applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines and, be legally defensible, useful, objective, and comprehensive.

The EIR process will allow for a cohesive evaluation of interrelated programs with similar foundations – regional policies and actions, growth projections of population, housing, and employment, Growth Visioning/2% Strategy urban form, and transportation and other supporting infrastructure systems.

The RTP/RCP EIR will provide a region-wide assessment of the potential significant environmental effects of implementing the projects, programs, and policies included in the proposed RTP and RCP. The EIR consultant will evaluate regional-scale impacts and propose effective and feasible mitigation measures. In addition to regional-scale analyses, the consultant will conduct a representative sample of localized air quality impacts from the goods movement system. Furthermore, the consultant will assist SCAG staff in

developing and refining the alternatives to ensure that there is a reasonable range of alternatives that minimize environmental impacts.

Contract Amount:	Total not to exceed	\$698,945
	ESA (Prime)	\$441,326
	Archaeological Resource Manag. Corp. (subcontractor)	\$5,000
	Meyer Mohaddes Associates (subcontractor)	\$48,061
	Ninyo & Moore (subcontractor)	\$5,000
	Sierra Research (subcontractor)	\$124,234
	Terry A. Hayes Associates (subcontractor)	\$75,324

Contract Period: January 5, 2006 through June 30, 2008

Work Element:	06-020.SCGC1	\$220,270	Funding Sources: Consolidated Planning Grant, FTA
	06-020.SCGC1	\$28,675	Funding Source: TDA
	06-025.SCGC1	\$100,000	Funding Source: TDA
	06-020.SCGC1.2	\$350,000	Funding Source: To be determined

Request for Proposal: SCAG staff mailed postcards to 142 pre-qualified firms on SCAG's bidders list to notify them of the release of RFP No. 06-035. The RFP was posted on the American Planning Association's website, the Lawley Publications website, and was also posted on SCAG's website. There was one respondent to the Request for Proposal.

Environmental Science Associates (5 subcontractors) \$698,945

Selection Process: The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) evaluated the proposal in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFP, and the selection process was conducted in a manner consistent with all applicable Federal and State contracting regulations. Interviews were held with the offeror.

The PRC was comprised of the following individuals:

David Sosa, Chief, Regional Planning Branch, Caltrans Dist. 7
Margaret Moore Sohagi, Attorney, Fox & Sohagi (CEQA Expert)
Rich Macias, Manager, Transportation Division, SCAG
Sylvia Patsaouras, Manager, Environmental Division, SCAG
Ted Harris, Air Quality Program Manager, SCAG

Basis for Selection:

The PRC unanimously recommends awarding the contract to the ESA consultant team. The SCAG region will benefit from ESA's extensive CEQA and air quality experience. Their combined expertise will provide environmental documentation that maximizes the utility of the RTP/RCP EIR and assesses and mitigates regional-level impacts for new or modified projects and policies in the RTP and RCP, respectively.

ESA correctly identified that the CEQA technical approach for the RTP/RCP EIR must provide a truly comprehensive analysis of the impacts of regional land use and transportation policies. ESA understands that the upcoming RTP/RCP EIR will provide further data on the implications of different types of growth, inclusive of the 2 % Strategy. The analyses will allow staff and decision-makers to frame regional land use and transportation policies to undertake a rational approach to regional planning that takes into account environmental impacts.

The proposal was responsive to SCAG's need to conduct more detailed air quality analyses of impacts associated with goods movement in the SCAG region. With the growing importance of the Ports to the regional and national economy, a more detailed understanding of the impacts of goods movement is necessary. ESA recognized that this means a more comprehensive analysis of trucks, trains and ships than has previously been undertaken in the RTP EIR. In response, they have assembled a team that includes Sierra Research and Meyer Mohaddes Associates. These firms have conducted research on key areas of cancer risk impacts from freeway segments and traffic and truck forecasting for the San Bernardino Associated Governments, including a potential intermodal "inland port" facility.

ESA demonstrated a superior understanding of the need for integrating consultant staff into agency operations including key individuals within ESA. Furthermore, the ESA team's familiarity with SCAG's administrative and policy processes proved essential to making a cost-effective bid that matched the needs of the organization.

Although the ESA team submitted the only proposal, they presented a very strong proposal that was responsive to the RFP, demonstrated a clear understanding of the process and the issues involved, and provided a clear approach to successful delivery of the project. In addition, ESA included in the team other consultants who participated in the pre-bid conference. Based on the proposal review and the interview, the PRC gave ESA a high average rating of 87 out of a possible 100.

ESA is a prominent environmental consulting firm throughout the nation. Over the past 36 years, ESA has assisted thousands of clients in complying with the requirements associated with environmental laws. ESA is familiar with federal and state statutes, regulations and case law, which provides them with a comprehensive understanding of environmental compliance and reporting processes. This understanding will yield a legally defensible analysis and documentation that benefits project planning and implementation in the SCAG region.